

## Grampian One Day Open Qualifying Trial 1st October 2019

Balbirnie Logo was drawn 5 in this 12 dog qualifier, which took place on level, open ground of mainly white grass and wet strips of reeds in a single large field.

The whole trial was walked up and his first two retrieves were marked pheasants, one shot 50 metres behind the line and one 80 metres in front. He had to wait on both occasions while birds were picked on the other side, but remembered the marks and picked both without handling. Rabbits, hares, snipe and pheasants were retrieved during the course of the trial and Logo's second round retrieve was a rabbit. Two were shot at more or less the same time, one in sight and one down the line out of sight. Logo had seen the first one run down the hill and followed the line to pick out of sight, ignoring the one kicking out in front. He reappeared with the rabbit, again without handling.

Only one dog had been lost at this stage so the judges stretched the line to about 150 metres for longer cross retrieves in the third round and dogs began to fail. Logo went back into line with young Billy Steel as judge and after a long walk of about 30 minutes at heel was eventually sent for a blind retrieve up the line on a rabbit. On the only occasion during the trial the whistle was used to stop him and straighten his runout in front of the guns on the left before he went out of sight over a small hill. He soon winded the rabbit and made a rapid return with it.

With only about six dogs left at this stage his second retrieve in the third round was a pheasant shot in a similar position at the other end of the line, out of sight. No corrections were needed this time as he winded the bird and completed the retrieve.

Several dogs were lost in the next hundred metres as clumps of pheasants were shot at a hedge line into longer grass and when Logo was called back for a sixth retrieve there were just two handlers left, and a further flurry of pheasants were shot over a high barbed wire fence. The dogs were taken over the fence before being sent about 75 metres to opposite ends of the line to pick live birds rather than dead ones hidden in the long grass field. Both dogs succeeded and the judges called an end to the trial.

Logo had completed six retrieves with speed and accuracy. The whistle had been used only once and he was declared the winner.

At the age of four his experience is beginning to tell and he now needs either two more one day wins or a two day win to achieve Field Trial Champion status.